

Customer No.: 07278

Docket No.: 06920/0202496-US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Shiaki Suyama et al.

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: Concurrently herewith

For: METHOD OF UPGRADING BIOMASS, UPGRADED BIOMASS, BIOMASS WATER SLURRY AND METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME, UPGRADED BIOMASS GAS, AND METHOD OF GASIFYING BIOMASS

-----

February 3, 2005

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, as it is filed: (Check one of the boxes A-D)

- [x]A. Within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.
- [ ]B. before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, or a first office action after filing a request for continued examination.

C. after (A) and (B) above, but before final rejection or allowance, and Applicants have made the necessary statement in box "i" below or paid the necessary fee in box "ii" below.

(check one of the boxes "i" and "ii" below:)

i. Counsel states that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either (a) cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or (b) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

ii. A check for the fee set forth in 1. 17(p), presently believed to be \$240, is enclosed.

D. after (A), (B) and (C) above, but before payment of the issue fee: Applicant petitions under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(d) for the consideration of this IDS. Under 37 CFR 1.17(i) a check in the amount of \$130.00 is enclosed. Counsel certifies that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either (i) cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS; or (ii) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

2. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., form PTO/SB/08) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.

(check boxes A, B and/or C and fill in blanks, if appropriate.)

A. Pursuant to the Notice issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office dated July 11, 2003 waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), a copy/copies of the United States Patent on PTO/SB08 is/are not being submitted.

B. Document(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is (are) deemed substantially cumulative to document(s) \_\_\_\_\_, and, in accordance with 1.98(c), only a copy of each of the latter documents is enclosed.

C. Certain documents were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the following prior applications, which are relied upon under 35 U.S.C. 120:

[SERIAL NO. & FILING DATE].

Applicant identifies these documents by attaching hereto copies of the forms PTO-892, PTO-1449 and/or PTO/SB/08 from the files of the prior application(s) or a fresh PTO/SB/08 listing these documents, and request that they be considered and made of record in accordance with 1.98(d). Per 37 CFR 1.98(d), copies of these documents need not be filed in this application.

[x] 3. Cite Nos. BA-BC and CA-CC are not in the English language. In accordance with 1.98(c), Applicant states:

- An English translation of each document (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application , or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.
- The requirement for a concise explanation of the relevance of any foreign language document is satisfied by the attached search report; citation of the documents cited in the search report shall not be construed as an admission that they are or are considered to be, material to patentability of the subject matter claimed herein (See MPEP §609).
- A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is set forth as follows: [Insert concise explanation of relevance]
- A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) \_\_\_\_\_ can be found on page(s) \_\_\_\_\_ of the specification.
- A concise explanation of document(s) \_\_\_\_\_ can be found on the attached sheet.

[ ] 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

[x] 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

An International Search Report, dated June 10, 2003, which issued during the prosecution of International Application No. PCT/JP03/05362 which corresponds to the present application, is enclosed.

6. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless other-wise indicated, the

date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

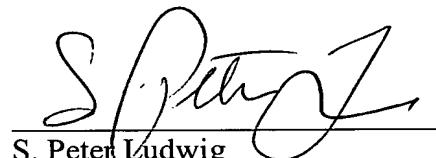
**CROSS REFERENCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. (1.78 TO RELATED APPLICATIONS)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. ( 1.78, Applicant notes that the above-identified patent application may be related to the following U.S. Patent Applications:

(1) U.S. Patent Application Serial No \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



S. Peter Ludwig  
Registration No. 25,351  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

DARBY & DARBY P.C.  
P.O. Box 5257  
New York, N.Y. 10150-5257  
(212) 527-7700

10/523749

DT12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 03 FEB 2005

PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Chiaki Suyama
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	06920/0202496-US0

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
BA	JP-2003-129069	05-08-2003	JGC Corp.		T <sup>6</sup>
BB	JP-2002-59118	02-26-2002	Hayashi Nobuyuki		
BC	JP-2001-115174	04-24-2001	Toshiba Corp.		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	Toshiro Minowa et al., "Biomass no Nenryoka Kaatsu Nessuich deno Biomass no Hanno", Kagaku to Kogyo, 1999 Nen, Vol. 52, No. 5, pages 613-615.			
	CB	Satoshi Kumagai et al., "5-2. Kaatsu Nessui ni yori Seibun Benri Sareta Shokubutsu-Kai The Japan Institute of Energy Taikai Koen Yoshishu, 2001 Nen, pages 313-316.			
	CC	Yoshikazu Sugimoto et al., "Suichu Kanetsu Shori Shita Cellulose oyobu Akamatsu no Kagakkyo Kozo" Journal of The Japan Institute of Energy, 1996 Nen, Vol. 75, No. 9, pages 829-838.			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------